

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-24, and 26-38 are presented in this Amendment. Claims 1, 9-11, 13, 18, and 26-28 have been amended. Claims 8 and 25 have been canceled.

In the Office Action mailed June 7, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,745,183. Claims 8-17 and 25-34 were objected to but found to be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Claims 35-38 were allowed.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations from allowable dependent claim 8. Hence, claim 1 is now dependent claim 8 rewritten into independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2-7 and 9-17 are now in condition for allowance.


Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations from allowable dependent claim 25. Thus, claim 18 is now dependent claim 25 rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of the independent claim. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 and dependent claims 19-24 and 26-34 are now allowable.

In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Application No. 09/849,503
Reply to Office Action dated June 7, 2004

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,
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